

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12 have been objected to due to informalities. The claims have been amended accordingly (claim 9 has been canceled).

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Flanagan in view of Anandakumar; and claim 14 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Flanagan in view of Anandakumar, further in view of Duan. The rejections are moot since claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate allowable claim 9 (now canceled).

Claims 2, 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Fuji in view of Anandakumar. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Fuji is not proper prior art since the filing date of May 4, 2000 is after the effective filing date of the instant application, namely February 11, 2000, which is the filing date of properly claimed priority application DE 10006245.8.

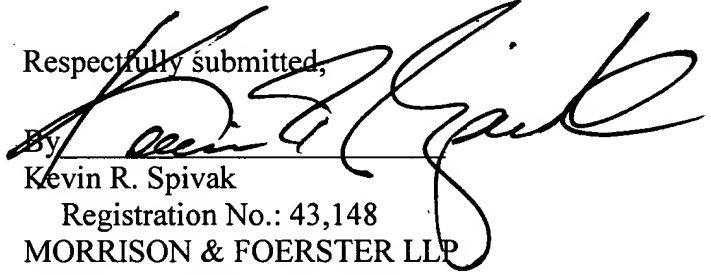
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122002700.

However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: August 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kevin R. Spivak". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

By

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